

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension or	)	
	)	
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of	)	ORDER OF
	)	
Victoria G. Felder,	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Certificate 141386	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 12, 2007. On December 28, 2006, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Victoria G. Felder notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Felder received the notice and requested a hearing, which was held before State Board hearing officer Geraldine H. Urbanic, Esquire, on July 25, 2007. Ms. Urbanic presented her findings and recommendations to the Board and, after careful deliberation, the Board voted to suspend Ms. Felder's certificate for two years with the stipulation that to regain her certificate she complete appropriate psychological counseling.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Felder holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-five years of teaching experience. During the 2006-07 school year, Ms. Felder was employed as a teacher at W.M. Anderson Primary School in the Williamsburg County School District. On November 3, 2006, the District placed Ms. Felder on administrative leave following allegations that she "popped" a female student on the arm with a ruler. The District terminated Ms. Felder's employment immediately thereafter.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Felder's certificate for a period of two years, through September 12, 2009. If Ms. Felder wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must provide written documentation to the Board that she has completed counseling, as determined by a licensed clinical psychologist, and is fit to return to practice as an educator. Prior to the reinstatement of her certificate, Ms. Felder shall appear before the Board for a character and fitness review.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:   
John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
September 12, 2007